

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 085804
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:WSSHEPARD:LGR
APPROVED BY EA - WILLIAM H. GLEYSTEN
S/S - SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 085804

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVP, UNG, MY (PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR VISIT BY MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2209

SINGAPORE PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

1. MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR ZAIN CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEN APRIL 15 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REQUEST AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON FOR PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN. REFERRING TO PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS IN KUALA LUMPUR ON THE SUBJECT, HE SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE MATTER AND WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT HERE DURING THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. (ZAIN THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS FLEXIBILITY IN THE DATES, PROVIDED THE VISIT TOOK PLACE DURING THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OR THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER.)

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2. ZAIN NOTED THAT TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN HAD BEEN HERE IN 1960 AND 1964 AND INFORMALLY IN 1969. TUN ABDUL RAZAK HAD MET INFORMALLY WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN SEPTEMBER, 1971, IN CONNECTION WITH HIS TRIP TO THE UNGA AND CANADA. THE LAST OFFICIAL VISIT BY AN MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS THUS IN 1964, AND IT HAD BEEN NEARLY SIX YEARS SINCE A

MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER HAD MET EVEN INFORMALLY WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN WILL BE CHAIRING THE ASEAN SUMMIT IN KUALA LUMPUR IN AUGUST, AN EVENT THAT WOULD ADD INTEREST TO HIS SUBSEQUENT VISIT HERE.

3. GLEYSTEN EXPRESSED SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE REQUEST, WHILE NOTING THAT THE TIME FRAME WAS A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT ONE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE. WE COULD NOT SAY AT THIS TIME WHETHER A VISIT COULD BE SCHEDULED DURING THAT PERIOD, OR IF A VISIT PROVED POSSIBLE THEN, WHETHER IT COULD BE AN OFFICIAL VISIT. WE WOULD SEE WHAT WAS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, AND WOULD STAY IN CONTACT REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR THE VISIT. FYI: ZAIN TOLD US THAT THE TIMING IS TO SOME EXTENT DICTATED BY PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN'S CURRENT SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE, WHICH WILL INCLUDE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN FOLLOWED BY SOME LEAVE, POSSIBLY IN HAWAII, BEFORE HE PROCEEDS TO NEW YORK. END FYI.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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